agencies of the NSTFDC so as to ensure greater flow of funds to eligible Scheduled Tribe persons for undertaking income generating activities (self-employment ventures). This includes channelising of funds for Micro Credit Activities through Self Help Groups (SHGs).

Crime against children

2241. SHRI EKANATH K.THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crime against children in India increased by 3.8 per cent nationally and child rape increased by 13.7 per cent;

(b) whether it is a fact that nearly 45,000 children go missing every year and more than 11,000 are never traced;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Central Monitoring Commission which is supposed to monitor crime against children under the Juvenile Justice Act, has not met even once since the Act was amended in the year 2000; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to protect children in India against crime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), crime against children in India increased by 3.8 per cent nationally and child rape increased by 13.7 per cent during 2005 as compared to 2004.

(b) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in collaboration with the UNIFEM and the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi conducted an Action Research on Trafficking in Women and Children in India (ARTWAC), the report of which was released in August, 2004. As per the report, the number of children reported missing from the States/Union Territories comes to an average of 44,476 per year based upon the data compiled for the six year period from 1996 to 2001. The report also mentions that out of the average 44,476 children per annum repotted as missing, an average 11,008 children per annum continued to remain missing or untraced.

(c) and (d) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 provides for constitution of a Central Advisory Board to advise the Government on matters relating to establishment and maintenance of homes, mobilization of resources, provision of facilities for education, tracing and rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection and juvenile in conflict with law and coordination among the various concerned official agencies. The subject matter was being handled by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment earlier. After transfer of the subject to this Ministry, efforts have been made to reconstitute the Board and holds it meeting. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been regularly consulting a large number of child welfare experts and representatives of Government and Non-Government Organisations working in this area.

The Ministry of women and Child Development has recently brought out amendments in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 to make it more child friendly. It has also formulated a new scheme "Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)" to have in place a comprehensive child protection framework across the country.

Crime against children

2242. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases booked against employers of children in the past years;

(b) whether any assessment has been made in respect of the number of children employed; and

(c) the schemes and programmes formulated by his Ministry to retrieve the employed children and rehabilitate them by providing education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) So far, 60,442 prosecutions have beenlaunched against the employers employing child labourers in violation of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

(b) As per Census 2001, the number of child labourers in the country is 1.26 crore. This includes children working in both hazardous as well as non-hazardous occupations and processes.